

to access the specified resource from a second group to which the resource is allocated when the received information indicates the specified resource is not available to the second group.

34. (NEW) A system for managing resources used by groups of workers carrying out jobs through network clients, said system comprising:

a file storage to store files of resources, whereby groups of workers can access the resources through clients over a network; and

a server coupled by the network to said file storage and to the clients, said server maintaining allocation information indicating allocation of a corresponding resource to one or more of the groups, determining whether the resource is available to a requesting group based on the allocation information, and selectively changing the allocation information when a job requiring access to the resource is completed.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 25-34 are pending in this application. Claims 1-18 and 25-32 stand rejected, while claims 35-34 are new with this response. These new claims are believed to add no new matter to the disclosure, and entry and approval of same are respectfully requested.

Summary of Substance of Interview

Sincere thanks are expressed to the Examiner for the courtesies extended in conducting a personal interview with the undersigned attorney on April 26, 2000. Independent claims 1, 27, and 30 and the reference to Fargher et al. ("Fargher") were discussed.

It was noted to the Examiner that the interpretation of the term "resource" in the grounds of rejection is different from the meaning of that term as used in the applicants' specification and claims. In the Office Action, the Examiner's application of the Fargher disclosure to claims 1, 27, and 30 indicated that a "resource" might be either a semiconductor manufacturing machine or a worker. In contrast, the present specification defines "resource"